

To: McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa[Mcclain-Vanderpool.Lisa@epa.gov]
From: The Colorado Independent
Sent: Fri 8/14/2015 9:04:39 PM
Subject: Yellow journalism

Dear readers,

The Animas River turned yellow and the blame game began.

As *The Indy's* Western Slope correspondent Nancy Lofholm reported this week, many Southwest Coloradans pointed fingers at the Environmental Protection Agency, redubbing it the "Environmental Pollution Agency." Reporters blamed the town of Silverton for ignoring the pleas of the EPA to clean up the Gold King mine site and the other 200 leaking mines around the town. Colorado has about 22,000 abandoned mines statewide. The golden French mustardness of the Gold King spill, as Lofholm put it, may be a taste of what's to come for our waterways.

Pulitzer-winning cartoonist [Mike Keefe weighed in on the disaster](#) in his weekly cartoon, posted above. And our [readers jumped in swinging](#) at the EPA, the free market economy, the mining companies, and Silverton voters, too.

As journalists, we're here to tell the stories that fuel the public debate. It's our job to keep chronicling the conversation between those who blame the spill on big government oversight and those who point to governmental deregulation and corporate irresponsibility.

There are thousands of stories across Colorado we want to report for you and we [need your donations](#) to keep our reporters on the frontlines of the biggest issues spilling across our state. Consider making a much-needed, [tax-deductible donation](#) to *The Colorado Independent* so we can keep building our small-media, big-news movement.

Thanks for reading. Thanks for sharing. And thanks for [your support](#).

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